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COOPERATION IN EUROPE
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an intervention by Mr. Hassan A. Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, at the meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, at Rome on 30 November 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 26 and 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan before the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at Rome on 30 November 1993

I would like to express my gratitude to the Italian Government for its hospitality and excellent organization of this round of the CSCE Council.

The main goal of my intervention is to draw the attention of my distinguished colleagues to the facts of aggression of the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan. The core of the conflict is that Armenia, being an aggressor-state, takes advantage of the ethnic group of Armenians living on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and makes use of it as an instrument of separatism and annexation of our territory. It is obvious that aggression can not be and should not be left unpunished.

As a result of its aggression against Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, seeking to set up a certain " Great Armenia", i.e. to restore mythic two-thousand-year-old borders, has seized more than 20 % of Azerbaijani territories. As a result of "ethnic cleansing" policy conducted by Armenian armed forces more than 18 thousand people were killed, about 50 thousand got wounded or became disabled , 4 thousand are either taken prisoner or hostage, about one million of Azerbaijanians have become refugees in their own country; all the Azerbaijanians have been ousted from all the occupied territories being faced up with the threat of extermination; 88 thousand dwelling houses, more than one thousand economic enterprises, more than 250 schools, 250 medical establishments have been destroyed or burned down. The

damage caused to Azerbaijan is estimated at billions of US dollars. I would like to express the gratitude to the CSCE Member-States for the humanitarian assistance rendered to tens of thousands of our refugees.

The following facts testify of Armenia's full political and military involvement in its aggression against Azerbaijan. I would like to give only a few examples:

- on December 1,1989 a decision was passed by the Parliament of Armenia "On unification of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh" which has not up until now been cancelled and which contradicts the norms of the international law;

- in 1990 on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan illegally were held the elections to the Parliament of Armenia, 12 members of which had been elected on the territory of Azerbaijan;

- the Parliament of Armenia passed a decision not to recognize any normative act where Nagorno Karabakh is rendered as a part of Azerbaijan;

- proclaiming its sovereignty Armenia illegally inserted in the Declaration the territory of Nagorno Karabakh of the Azerbaijan Republic;

- it is a member of the Parliament of Armenia that is now at the head of the so-called "Council for Defense" of Nagorno Karabakh;

- current Minister of Defense of Armenia is a person who until recently was in charge of military formations of Nagorno Karabakh separatists;

- it has been proved that the villages of the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan had been occupied directly from the territory of Armenia.

I have mentioned only some of undeniable facts and I would ask that they were reflected in the CSCE documents and taken into consideration by the CSCE Member-States.

With its behavior Armenia openly defies the international community nipping in the bud all attempts for peaceful political resolution of the conflict. Suffice to give just several examples. At the dawn of

implementation of Russian and Kazakhstan initiative on settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in February of 1992 the Armenian side seized the Azerbaijani town of Khodjaly where more than 800 peaceful civilians had been exterminated;

- after Azerbaijan and Armenia have become members of the UN and CSCE the Republic of Armenia ,playing the hypocrite and proclaiming its adherence to the Charter and Principles of these organizations, has seized the Azerbaijani city of Shusha;

- while the UN fact-finding mission was in the region to look into this issue the Lachin region of Azerbaijan was occupied by Armenia;

- during informal consultations of "The Five" in Geneva Armenia seized the Kelbajar region of Azerbaijan;

- in the wake of the visit to the region of the Chairman of the Minsk Conference Mr.Mario Raffaelli Armenia captured the Agdam region of Azerbaijan;

- following the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 853 demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan Armenia annexed the Fizuli region of Azerbaijan;

- in the course of the visit of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office Mrs.Margareta af Ugglas to the region Armenia occupied the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan;

- and, finally, most recently, on November 24, just several days after the signature of the last "Timetable of urgent steps" submitted by the Minsk Group, Armenia seized the zone of the Khudaferin bridge of Azerbaijan having taken control over 161 km of the frontier between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have given the examples of methods used by Armenia to torpedo the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions and earlier signed Timetables of the Minsk Group.

The principal direction of the Minsk Group activities was defined as the elimination of all the consequences of the Armenian

aggression. However, afterwards, the CSCE did not find enough political will and resoluteness in order to properly respond to the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and, moreover, followed lead of the Armenian scenario.

The more Armenian side occupies the Azerbaijani territories the more we feel pressure and the more we are demanded to make concessions. The more Armenia proceeds with "ethnic cleansing" the more we are proposed unacceptable decisions. The more Azerbaijanians become refugees, the more the demands of the UN SC on withdrawal of Armenian forces from the Azerbaijani territories fall into oblivion, as do the UN Charter and the CSCE Principles.

Having condemned in June of 1992 the seizure of Shusha and Lachin and having urged the immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Minsk Group has very soon lost sight of its own principal decisions. It started to talk about "the vital importance" of the Lachin region for the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh turning the blind eye to the fact that the so-called "humanitarian corridor" is still being utilized as the main thoroughfare of military deliveries from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. At that time Armenia did not find a common accord, but after it had occupied new territories of Azerbaijan it was decided to concede to Armenia. The scheme, thrusted today upon Azerbaijan, I mean the one elaborated by nine countries of the Minsk Group, in accordance with which the issues of Shusha and Lachin are being put off until the Minsk Conference, is unacceptable because such variant is aimed at exerting pressure on and blackmailing the Azerbaijan Republic in order to provide the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh with a non-constitutional status and, to be more correct, at elevating the level of the Armenian "interested party" of Nagorno Karabakh region to a full-right "party" in the negotiation process and debarring gradually the Azerbaijanian "interested party" from equal participation in the comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Minsk Group illegitimately exaggerates the political significance of direct contacts of the Azerbaijani Government with the representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh, evaluating them as the recognition of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as a "party to the conflict" thus complicating the contacts of the Government of a sovereign state with its citizens.

The representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh claim that their recognition as a "party to the conflict" is understood by them as the recognition of their "international-legal status". Comment is superfluous.

Ignoring the unreserved character of the demands of the UN SC resolutions the Minsk Group conditioned the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia by putting forward numerous and ambigious demands to the Azerbaijani side that are aimed at appeasing the ever-growing ambitions of the Armenian side.

Does that mean that one can apply the policy of "double standard" with respect to the member-states? Does that mean that the European Conference reserves for the separatist forces inside the states the right for choosing the means, including armed activities, for the realization of their goals? Finally, does that mean that the CSCE recognizes the right of rude force? Is not the tragic experience of the history of wars and conflicts enough to understand the inadmissible character of political games around the Declaration of Principles of the CSCE? Are there any guarantees that all this would not affect the interests of all countries and would not lead, in the long run, to the complete collapse of existing world order? We believe that the CSCE should take sides neither with Azerbaijan nor with Armenia. CSCE should respect its own Principles recognized by all member-states.

One has to rule out the biased interpretation and distortion of our position . Azerbaijan is often accused because of its "tough" position. I would like to throw light on the real situation in this issue.

The demand to give the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh the status of a "party" which contradicts the mandate of the Minsk Conference; the demand to ensure the residence in Nagorno Karabakh of 100 thousand of Armenians at the cost of the expulsion of 50 thousand of Azerbaijanians; the demand on unilateral demilitarization of all the Azerbaijani territories around Nagorno Karabakh; passing over in silence the fate of Shusha and Lachin and the utilization of these territories for the arms deliveries from Armenia are claimed as being a "necessary compromise" and constructive approach in peaceful settlement of the conflict.

On the other hand, our proposal concerning the respect of the status of Azerbaijanians of Nagorno Karabakh in the negociating process, the return of 50 thousand Azerbaijanian refugees to Nagorno Karabakh, the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia from all the occupied territories, the return of one illion of refugees to their homes and the restoration of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are qualified as a "tough" approach and absence of flexibility.

I want to inform you that we are dealing here with obvious mistification of the international scale. The question is that many are inclined to consider the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as having the status of a waring party taking the mistification for the reality. In reality, a small group of Armenians living in the mountainous region without proper industry and substantial ressources can not defeat the industrial country with the population of 7 million having occupied more than 20 percent of its territory. This is a complete military-political absurd.

We, certainly, highly appreciate the efforts of the Minsk Group and we would be ready to sign a Timetable facilitating the settlement of the conflict on the basis of respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Despite the difficult situation created as a result of the aggression of Armenia Azerbaijan continues to pursue the way of democratization of society, development of political pluralism, strengthening of the rule of law, human rights and, in particular, rights of national minorities.

We appeal to all CSCE Participating States to regard with understanding our problems, our needs, our anxiety for the fate of our state , our land, our people. I wish each country while reflecting on the ways of settlement of the bloody conflict could remember its own history, the vicissitudes of its own fate.